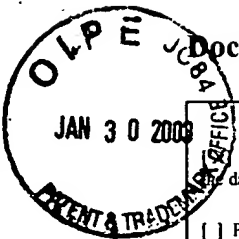


Ep 1733



Docket No. VAS-4761CONDIV

Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.

[] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner _____ at Facsimile No. _____ at _____ a.m./p.m.

Dated: January 24, 2003

Name of Person Certifying:
Printed Name:

Melissa Sanchez

8C/KD
2/4/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Donald Shannon et al.

Assignee: Edwards Lifesciences
LLC

Serial No.: 09/912,006

Examiner: Rossi, J.

Filing Date: July 24, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1733

Title: RADIALLY EXPANDABLE TAPE-REINFORCED VASCULAR GRAFTS

RECEIVED
JAN 31 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated July 24, 2002, in the above-identified patent application, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following Amendments and Remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-11. Please add new claims 23-32 as follows:

23. (New) A radially expandable tape-reinforced tubular vascular graft, comprising:
a tubular PTFE base graft; and
a reinforcing tape wrapped around the tubular base graft,
wherein the radially expandable tape-reinforced tubular graft is capable of
undergoing radial enlargement to increase its diameter without breaking or
tearing of the reinforcing tape.

02/05/2003 KBTULER 00000002 501225 09912006

01 FC:1253 930.00 CH

copy
E11